

UNIFORMED PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

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Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Paul J. Rapanault. I am the Director of Legislative and Political Affairs for the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut. Our 4,500 members serve in 55 fire departments throughout the state.

I am addressing you today in **SUPPORT of H.B. 5570 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DANBURY FIRE TRAINING FACILITY AT PLUMTREES ROAD**. The objective of this bill is to designate the Danbury fire training facility at Plumtrees Road as a state regional fire school in order to expand regional cooperation and contain costs. In these very trying times of budget deficits and financial insecurity, proposals that offer fiscal benefits while improving the ability of municipalities to provide their life-saving services is a win-win. In addition, significant benefit will be gained by the designation by reducing travel costs of area departments. The closest of the nine current schools is an hour away.

The Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO), Fairfield County Fire Chiefs, The Connecticut State Fire Fighters Education Committee and the following local entities have endorsed this concept: Brookfield, Sherman, New Fairfield, Bethel, Ridgefield, Botsford, Sandy Hook, Stony Hill, Bridgewater, Bethel, Georgetown, Southbury, Roxbury.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul J Rapanault
Legislative/Political Affairs